

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-05 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /088 W

-----001118 311649Z /41

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6636

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 2321

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PINT, PINS

SUBJECT: BLACK NEWSPAPER THE WORLD THREATENED WITH CLOSURE

REF: PRETORIA 3994

1. PERCY QOBOZA'S (AS EDITOR OF BLACK NEWSPAPER THE WORLD) LONG SIMMERING QUARREL WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE JIMMY KRUGER FLARED INTO OPEN AGAIN THIS WEEK AS QOBOZA STINGINGLY REFUTED KRUGER'S ALLEGATIONS MADE TO AN AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER (RAPPORT) THAT QOBOZA HAD AGREED TO "TONE DOWN INFLAMMATORY RHETORIC" IN THE WORLD RATHER THAN FACE CLOSURE. MOREOVER, QOBOZA STATED THAT PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HAD ALSO CALLED HIM IN AND IMPLIED SIMILAR THREATS, ALTHOUGH "THE PRIME MINISTER MADE HIS THREAT IN A MORE FRIENDLY AND SYMPATHETIC MANNER".

2. WHILE QOBOZA HAD REPORTED THE THREATS CONFIDENTIALLY TO US OFFICIALS EARLIER, HE APPARENTLY HAD NO INTENTION OF PUBLICIZING THEM AT THIS TIME UNTIL KRUGER'S REMARKS TO RAPPORT.

ONCE KRUGER TOOK THE WRAPS OFF, HOWEVER,

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QOBOZA STRONGLY DENIED ANY DEAL AND, MOREOVER, CHALLENGED THE SAG TO TRY ITS CASE IN COURT OR BEFORE THE PRESS COUNCIL IF IT HAD COMPLAINTS.

3. IN A LATER DEVELOPMENT, PERCY QOBOZA FURTHER UNDERSCORED HIS CONTEMPT FOR SAG POLICIES BY JOINING WITH RAND DAILY MAIL EDITOR ALLISTER SPARKS AND PROGREF HORACE VAN RENSBURG

(MP BRYANSTON) IN CALLING FOR A NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR ALL RACIAL GROUPS TO WORK OUT A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR A MULTIRACIAL SOUTH AFRICA. THE ORGANIZATION TO WHICH QOBOZA AND SPARKS LENT THEIR SUPPORT IS PLEDGED TO PROMOTE "AN ASSOCIATION OF MODERATES TO FURTHER THE PRINCIPLE OF A (MULTIRACIAL) NATIONAL CONVENTION".

4. COMMENT: QOBOZA'S DECISION TO PUBLICALLY REFUTE KRUGER'S THREATS IN LIGHT OF KRUGER'S REMARKS TO RAPPORT SEEMED TO BE HIS ONLY OPTION IN VIEW OF THE IMPLICATION THAT QOBOZA WAS KNUCKLING UNDER TO PRESSURE. QOBOZA IS NOT WITHOUT SUPPORT IN THE WHITE COMMUNITY (PARTICULARLY THE PRESS) AND ATTEMPTS TO MUZZLE QOBOZA ARE SEEN (AND HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN EDITORIALIZED AGAINST) AS INTERFERENCE WITH A FREE PRESS. NONETHELESS, KRUGER WARNED THAT QOBOZA'S ARTICLES IN THE WORLD WOULD BE LEADING EVIDENCE WHEN THE NEWSPAPER BILL ADVOCATING PRESS CENSORSHIP IS RE-CONSIDERED NEXT YEAR.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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